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1-8-03Serial No.: 09/324,454  
Group Art Unit: 2661  
Examiner: Kenneth N. Vanderpuye

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Humblet, et al. Docket: 139074  
Serial No.: 09/324,454 Art Unit: 2661  
Filed: June 2, 1999 Examiner: Kenneth N. Vanderpuye  
Title: Method and System for Path Protection in a Communications Network

# 9/a  
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1-17-03AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent Office to 703-872-9314, Attention Examiner Kenneth N. Vanderpuye, on January 8, 2003 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.6(d).

Jessica Smith  
Jessica Smith

Dear Commissioner:

In response to the Office Action ("Office Action") dated October 8, 2002, please enter the following amendment:

In the Claims:

6. (Amended) A method of failure notification in a communications network, the method comprising:

providing a communication network having at least two overlapping areas of nodes interconnected by communications links;

upon a failure event involving one of the communications links, broadcasting a failure message identifying the failed link, the broadcast being confined within the areas which includes the failed link; and

wherein broadcasting includes detecting the link failure at one or both of the nodes connected to the failed link, identifying nodes connected to the one or both detecting nodes that belong to the same areas as the failed link and sending the failure message only to such identified nodes.

7. Please cancel claim 7.

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